

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 10/624,493

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Claims 1-21 are allowable.

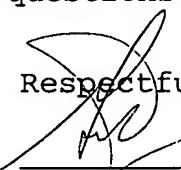
However, the Examiner has rejected Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tobe et al.

Applicants hereby cancel Claim 22, without prejudice to pursuing the same in a continuation application, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's only rejection.

In view of the cancellation of Claim 22, and the indication of allowability of Claims 1-21, the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issuance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at his Washington telephone number on any questions which might arise.

Respectfully submitted,



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